Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 00163 041901Z

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INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 PRS-01 USIA-06 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5452

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGUI 0163

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: CT, PDIP

SUBJECT: WEDDING OF PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S ELDEST SON

- 1. ALTHOUGH NOT YET OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED THROUGH CUSTOMARY FONMIN CHANNELS, EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S ELDEST SON, GEORGES, PLANS TO BE MARRIED ON PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY, FEBRUARY 22 AT BANGUI CATHEDRAL TO BE ATTENDED BY ENTIRE GOCAR.
- 2. AT TIME OF BOKASSA'S DAUGHTER'S MARRIAGE IN JANUARY, 1973, DEPARTMENT TRANSMITTED GIFT TOGETHER WITH APPROPRIATE MESSAGE FROM FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON. IN ANTICIPATION OF WEDDING INVITATION, WOULD APPRECIATE S/CPR'S SELECTING WEDDING GIFT SOONEST FOR TRANSMISSION EMBASSY BANGUI IF CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE. (FYI: EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND REPEAT REQUEST FOR GIFT UPON MARRIAGE OF EACH OF REMAINING 23 OR MORE CHILDREN.)
- 3. ALSO BELIEVE PERSONAL MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM PRESIDENT FORD WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. SUGGEST PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. QUOTE. DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

IT IS WITH MUCH PLEASURE THAT MRS. FORD AND I LEARNED OF THE MARRIAGE OF YOUR SON, GEORGES, ON FEBRUARY 22, YOUR OWN BIRTHDAY AS WELL. WE WOULD LIKE TO ADD OUR WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO THE MANY YOU AND MADAME BOKASSA WILL RECEIVE ON THIS JOYFUL FAMILY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCCASION IN WHICH THE CENTRAL AFRICAN PEOPLE SHARE. PLEASE

EXTEND TO THE NEW COUPLE OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR THEIR HAPPINESS, HEALTH AND PROSPERITY. UNQUOTE.

4. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING APPROVED TEXT BY COB FEBRUARY 18 TO PERMIT TRANSLATION AND TRANSMISSION TO THE PRESIDENCY IN TIME FOR THE WEDDING. DALE

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: STATE WEDDINGS, CEREMONIAL MESSAGES

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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Subject: WEDDING OF PRESIDENT BOKASSA'S ELDEST SON TAGS: PDIP, CT, (FORD, GERALD R), (BOKASSA, GEORGES)
To: STATE

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